

Bible Story 15: RUTH TAKING CARE OF HER MOTHER-IN-LAW NAOMI

SCRIPTURE: RUTH 1:1-11,14-19,22; 2:1-23; 4:13-17

MEMORY VERSE: "I WILL LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE HILLS - WHERE DOES MY HELP COME FROM? MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD, THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH."
PSALM 121:1-2 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

A great famine was in Israel and everyone was hungry. So Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and two sons moved to Moab, where there was food. Their sons married Orpah and Ruth, women from Moab. After about ten years, Naomi was very sad. Her husband and two sons had died. When she heard that the famine was over, she decided to go back home to Bethlehem.

Naomi kissed her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, good-by. She told them that they should not go on this long trip and leave their homeland and family. Each should return to her mother's home. They cried. Finally Orpah kissed Naomi and went back to her home, but Ruth stayed. Naomi once again told her to return home. Ruth loved her mother-in-law and wanted to take care of her. Ruth told Naomi that she would go wherever she went. Ruth also wanted to serve God. So Naomi took Ruth with her.

Time passed and they finally arrived in Bethlehem. Ruth took care of her mother-in-law Naomi. In order for them to have food to eat, Ruth went out each day to a field owned by Boaz. She walked after the harvest workers, picking up the grain from stalks of barley that was left on the ground. Boaz saw Ruth and was very pleased when he learned how she was taking care of her mother-in-law Naomi. He protected and took care of Ruth, making sure his men were kind to her, leaving some barley stalks for her, and allowing her to drink their water.

After a period of time, Boaz married Ruth. God blessed their home. They had a son, Obed, who would become the grandfather to king David.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

RETELL THE STORY:

Ask volunteers from the group to retell the story.